

Special Meeting of Thursday, March 1, 2012 (Commission Interviews)
One Twin Pines Lane, Third Floor Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 P.M.

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Braunstein, Feierbach, Warden, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Lieberman

Staff Present: City Clerk Cook

Judy King (Parks and Recreation, Incumbent) stated that she has not lost her passion for the work of the Commission. She noted that she is part of a small percentage of Commissioners who attend all city functions to represent the City and the Commission. She would like to continue to work on the Davey Glen Park development and looks forward to seeing it completed. She stated that she does her homework and is prepared in advance of all meetings. In response to Council questions, she clarified that the Commission represents a good balance of interests. She explained that when youth members were added to the Commission, she had doubts, but stated that they often provide valuable input. She suggested increasing the minimum age but noted that it would be beneficial not to limit their service to only one term. She expressed her desire for more joint meetings with the City Council, and would prefer that they be more roundtable in nature rather than formal. She stated that Commissioners are generally comfortable with raising issues with individual members of the City Council if necessary. She expressed her interest in the formation of a Parks Foundation, and stated that such an organization needs people who can go after money. She suggested that a Foundation should be a separate entity from the City. When asked regarding the potential to televise Commission meetings, she questioned how to measure the effectiveness in order to justify the cost. She stated that she often watches the Planning Commission meetings. She commented that some day she hopes that something could be done with the Barrett facility, and suggested the City continue in its efforts to make something happen there.

Tim Robertson (Planning) stated that he has been a resident since 2005. He explained that he is a physicist working in the medical device field, and has to follow rules. He has a desire to serve, as well as a sense of duty, and noted that democracy depends on people to participate. He has a professional management background which could add value. He is interested in development issues. He stated there is a need to prepare for next boom and wave of growth, and that there will be pressure to develop. He suggested that the City of Belmont plan for growth rather than reacting to it. He expressed the importance of supporting existing businesses and listening to their ideas. He would like to make the downtown more walkable. He commented that El Camino Real is often the first thing people see of Belmont and it is not well maintained and makes a bad impression. In response to Council questions, he stated that when there is open communication, people can reach consensus even if they have differing opinions. He suggested that local interests should trump those of outsiders. He acknowledged that some decisions of the Planning Commission can be appealed to the City Council, and that if they are appealed, he would want to understand the divergence. He noted that the misalignment of issues may be at the staff level rather than between the Council and the Commission. He explained that if appointed he would take the job seriously and would do his homework.

Erica Adams (Planning) stated that she is a communications major from Georgia. She noted that she worked in the film industry in southern California before she got her masters degree in urban planning. She explained that she wanted to make an impact on people's environment to improve their lives. She provided her municipal background in public works as well as her work in federal programs such as housing. She noted that she now works for the San Mateo County Planning Department as a Design Review Officer for the Emerald Lake Hills community. She noted that she uses the Cipriani Dog Park regularly. She commented that Belmont does not have a downtown but needs retail that would draw people, such as restaurants. She stated that the El Camino Real near Caltrain is a missed opportunity, and that there is a need to locate housing near retail and to provide one-stop shopping. In response to Council questions, she provided definitions of urban, suburban, and rural.

Tim Wong (Parks and Recreation) stated that he has lived in Belmont since 1982, is semi-retired after working many years for Hewlett-Packard. He explained that he is involved in the Sterling Downs Neighborhood Association, and is a member of the High Speed Rail Ad Hoc Committee as well as the Belmont Villages committee. He commented that the Parks and Recreation Department provides a wide range of activities for health and wellness for all ages and that the City's facilities are well used. He would like to explore more joint uses for other facilities such as Carlmont High School. He expressed a desire to preserve open space and trails. He suggested holding a health fair, public art fair, a technology contest, or maker's fair at the Sports Complex. He noted that these would bring visibility to services already offered by the City.

Tom McCune (Planning/Finance) stated that he has a background in both planning and finance. He explained that he is an architect and was a member of a Kansas board that addressed blighted properties. He outlined his work for the Tennessee Valley Authority, an electric utility, where he managed park-like facilities. He explained that he is not very involved in Belmont but would like to be. He stated that both the Planning and the Finance Commissions are important and that he has no preference. He acknowledged that good planning can contribute to economic development, and that the process for applicants is important. He suggested telling applicants quickly if you want to say no. In response to Council questions, he outlined how he would approach an analysis of the City's budget. He stated he would look at emergencies first, and then look at the longer term, strategic history, trends and momentum. He stated that most of the time issues can be addressed if established communication channels are used.

Mike Davis (Parks and Recreation, Incumbent) stated that he has started discussions with people interested in doing something with the Barrett Community Center. He noted that this steering committee is exploring ways to do outreach, such as surveys and focus groups. He cited the need to talk about existing uses and to determine whether or not to continue to subsidize day care. He recommended establishing a Blue Ribbon Committee to further explore this matter. He explained that there is much interest in a community swimming pool, which can be a money maker. He stated that the City is on the right track with regard to its plans for the properties acquired in the San Juan Canyon. He noted that the easiest area to develop is Bishop Road, which he recommended three lots with open space access. He does not support the use of the Council Chambers for Commission meetings, and noted the successful Davey Glen Park on-site

meeting where there was one-on-one discussion with individual commissioners. He stated that he would have no issue in televising Commission meetings.

Karl Mittelstadt (Tree Board) stated that since retiring, he misses the interaction at City Hall. He explained that he administered the previous tree ordinance for 30 years and has the expertise. He noted that a primary consideration regarding the removal of a tree is safety, and stated that some diseased trees can be saved. When questioned regarding the new tree ordinance, he commented that it is a big improvement from the previous version, and that it has been well received by arborists. He noted that the ordinance is simplified, includes all species of trees, and provides for replanting, even if non-native trees are removed. He explained that ordinances in other cities are stricter than Belmont's. He noted that trees have a wide impact beyond the property, and that the City has a right to regulate. He stated that the Tree Board will need expert information when it addresses appeals. He explained that trees on development projects will be addressed by the Planning Commission, not the Tree Board, since the Tree Board is only involved with administrative permits.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:47 P.M.

**Terri Cook
City Clerk**

Meeting Tape Recorded but not Videotaped
Audio Recording 811